

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' State Alliance.

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I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows on the track, before me lies the dark valley and the river. When I mingle with its dark waters I want to cast one lingering look upon a country whose government is of the people, for the people, and by the people.

N. R. P. A.

Senator Vance was a life-long advocate of free coinage. Will the Charlotte Observer tell whether or not it regarded him as a man of the "first order of ability?"

The Salisbury Watchman thinks that this country needs an international disagreement with England on the silver question instead of an international agreement.

The North Carolina Farmer has been revived by Messrs. Wade T. Hampton and Wiley A. Jones, of this city. The first issue has appeared and contains a great deal of good agricultural matter.

Four Democrats, one colored, were arrested in Asheville Friday, charged with buying votes in the late municipal election. They were bound over to court in bonds of \$400 each. It is said that other arrests will follow.

Secretary Coke claims that the State revenue act was not properly ratified. State Treasurer Worth claims that the collection of taxes shall be done in accordance with the act, and Attorney-General Osborne sustains him in this decision, the State bank champion to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Charlotte Observer admits, in a playful way, that the country contains two or three men "of the first order of ability" besides Senator Morgan who are advocating the free coinage of silver. Now will the Observer name a few "men of the first order of ability" who are advocating a gold standard?

CONTEMPT OF COURT.

The editor of the News and Observer and his directors have laid themselves liable for contempt of court or criminal libel. Enraged because they have lost control of North Carolina, they have thrown prudence to the wind.

Public sentiment does not sustain them—even that part of it they have debauched and corrupted with malicious partisan vilification and abuse. They know that there is abundant reason and authority to sustain the court, that many, if not most, of the Democratic lawyers sustain and endorse the decision of Carr vs. Coke, that many, if not most, of the States in which the question has been raised have decided as our court did. And yet they are willing to lead ignorant and corrupt men to believe that the court really violated their oaths and sought by their opinion to shield a felon. They have forgotten that men who for the sake of mere partisan advantage impugn the motives of others are now weighed for what they are worth in North Carolina.

The impudence of these scurrilous and unprovoked attacks on our Supreme Court has never been equalled in this section within our recollection. The management of the News and Observer has vapored much about anarchy from time to time. What makes anarchy faster than an attempt to undermine the ancient respect of the people for their courts? There is a marked gang of Pharisees in North Carolina who are determined to rule this State or make anarchy and pandemonium

too. This gang has masqueraded behind the name of "Democratic party" for a long time. Joe Daniels and the corporate influences which control his paper have reasons which they dare not confess for wishing to control the Supreme Court. They are doubtless anxious, too, for a court that will work with them in making or upholding a dishonest election law. The editor of the News and Observer is not foolish enough to suppose himself even a one-horse lawyer. Therefore he is not really mad with the Supreme Court for disagreeing with him on a question of law, especially one about which real lawyers differ. He now says that Cleveland, Ransom, Carlisle, Hoke Smith & Co. disagree with him about the free coinage of silver. But is he mad with them? Does he abuse them and impugn their motives though he knows there are many ten thousands even in their own party who regard them as hypocrites and traitors? Not a bit of it; he never loses an opportunity to praise them. "But they belong to the party," he will doubtless say. Yes, and there's the rub—he has made up his mind to praise the members of his party, right or wrong, and to abuse men of a different party, right or wrong. Cleveland and Wall street and "the smell of sulphur" are all sweet if they are only in the party. If he can only keep the aggregation together he thinks the offices are safe. But he is mistaken. The Democratic party will never succeed either in the State or Nation till it purges itself of the gang of Pharisees who are running it for the money that is in it. The honest men once in it have already left it, or else they remain mere lobby members to see if there is really any possibility of overthrowing the reign of terror inside of it. As soon as they learn that its silver policy is but a decoy duck to lead them back into the camp of Wall street, they will desert it by thousands. And the pie-fed editor of the News and Observer talks about "fusion judges" when he has fused with Cleveland and Wall street and Hoke Smith and ballot box stuffers and election thieves, the Chicago platform and the Kentucky convention, all under one name—the Democratic party? No fusion can turn his stomach.

GOOD ILLUSTRATION. An amusing incident occurred on the train when Carlisle and his party were returning from their "sound money" powwow at Memphis. Among the delegates were Banker Broder, of Russellville, Ky., and Hon. Ben Perkins, of Elkton, in the same state, says the Non Conformist. The latter is an ardent free silver man and as they sat in the sleeper was discussing with Banker Broder the all prevailing question. The porter of the sleeping car came along and Broder handed Perkins a silver dollar with the request that he give him two halves for it, as he wished to tip the porter. Mr. Perkins looked at the silver dollar a moment, then handed it to the porter, saying: Keep it, for according to Mr. Broder's own statement it is only worth fifty cents." The porter, smiled an ivory smile and slipped the "depreciated currency" into his pocket. And to this hour the Russellville banker doesn't know where he is at on the value of a silver dollar.

READERS COMPARED.

Mr. O. M. Sanders, of Walkersville, N. C., writes the Lumberton Populist as follows: "The Democratic papers are making quite a stir about what THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER said in regard to counterfeiting silver. I think THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is wrong about it. As a rule we should be subject to the powers that be, and I do not think this is a case that would justify us in making an exception. But the man who votes and works for a gold standard, the man who votes and works to contract the currency of the country, thereby crowding more and more of the product of man's labor into a dollar and increasing the debtor's indebtedness by decreasing his ability to pay, is far, far more guilty in the sight of High Heaven of making a dishonest dollar than the man who puts 4 1/2 grains of silver in a piece and circulates it for a dollar. But the Charlotte Observer says, and the Monroe papers 'roll it under their tongues as a sweet morsel, 'We would not be surprised at THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER advising its readers to go into the wholesale robbing business.' Some of us have been reading THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER several years. Isn't it strange that the most of us are not cut throats and robbers, reading such vile literature so long? Again, isn't it strange that Holland, the defaulting bank cashier of Charlotte, the officials of the New Haven bank, and members of other bank officers in North Carolina who have stolen the people's money in the last few years, have invariably been men who have been fed on such pure literature as the Observer, the Enquirer and such like.

"BELONGING TO THE PARTY."

When a man says: I belong to the Democratic party, or I belong to the Republican party, he often means more than people suppose. He really does belong to his party, and speaks with great accuracy when he says so. He will do what he is told to do. He wears a collar. He carries a label. He has put on his prison uniform. He is counted by the regular professional politician like one of his sheep. They know him. He can always be counted to vote the "straight ticket." They can make him think it is a disgrace not to vote it straight. They can make him believe it is dishonorable to split his ticket. He has forgotten his country and his State. He only remembers "his party." The party is not "his;" he is the party's.

But when you hear a professional politician talking about "his" party, he is talking good grammar. The party is his. He owns its assets and capital stock. He gets (owns) all its offices. He does not trade off his party except for one which will give him a fatter office.

VAIN THINGS FOR SAFETY.

Politicians Before Election and After Election.

On July 1st, 1892, the United States Senate passed Senate Bill No. 51 (introduced by Senator Stewart, of Nevada), providing, "That the owner of silver bullion may deposit the same at any mint of the United States, to be coined for his benefit, and it shall be the duty of the proper officer upon the terms and conditions which are provided by law for the deposit and coinage of gold to coin such silver bullion into standard dollars, * * * and such coins shall be a legal tender for all debts and dues, public and private."

ONE WAY OUT.

There is absolutely but one way out of the present conditions, and that is to reverse the financial policy of the last 30 years. During all this time there has been a constant contraction of the currency and consequent fall in prices, until to day more than 90 per cent. of the business of the country is done on credit. It seems almost useless to picture the ruinous effects of a contracted currency. The story can be told by every farmer and laborer throughout the land, and it is everywhere the same, says the Salisbury Watchman.

Only a few of the creditor classes have been benefited by the contraction policy, and even they are standing on an uncertain foundation, for they can not expect to be permanently safe while the producing classes are being driven from their homes and made tenants and serfs. A system that works financial ruin to the producers must inevitably bring ruin to every other class sooner or later.

Everybody is now asking when times will get better. To those who are acquainted with the cause of hard times the answer is plain. There never can be better times until there is an increase in the volume of money to correspond with the growth of population and business. This is absolutely the only way out, and all talk about some other way is nothing but idle and ridiculous. To remedy the evil the cause must be removed by an expansion of the volume of money. Enhanced prices will bring better times, but with falling prices times will continue to go from bad to worse.

This Republic cannot endure very long under the present financial system. We as a nation are practically bankrupt now, and it will take only a few more years of falling prices to cause the crash to come. There should be a speedy change.

PATRIOTIC UTTERANCE.

That excellent reform paper, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, of Raleigh, N. C., the property of Mrs. L. L. Polk, reached our table last week. At the head of its editorial columns are the memorable and prophetic words of her grand and noble husband, Hon. L. L. Polk, uttered July 4, 1890: "I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows on the tracks, before me lies the dark valley and the river. When I mingle with its dark waters I want to cast one lingering look upon a country whose government is of the people, for the people and by the people."

CRAZY AS A MARCH HARE.

In an editorial in the Danville Star appears these two propositions almost in the same sentence: That the free coinage of silver will enhance the value of silver bullion 100 per cent. (the silver mine owners of the West receiving the benefit of the appreciation) and that the tobacco farmers of Virginia will receive only one half the value of their tobacco crop, because they will be paid for it in a depreciated money. This is logic sure enough! We have seen these two arguments used by the goldbugs before, but never in the same breath. And yet they are about as logical as any of the goldbug arguments we have seen put forth.—Wilmington Dispatch.

STATE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

The Association met at Greensboro on the 17th. The city entertained the members at the Benbow House, one of the best hotels in the South. Much business was discussed and transacted. A handsome banquet, ride around the city, and excursion to the Guilford Battle Ground, were a part of the pleasant features. The Brockman Concert Company, composed of Greensboro talent, gave a beautiful musical concert on Wednesday night.

The annual election of officers resulted as follows: President, C. L. Stevens, Southport Leader; Vice-Presidents, W. F. Marshall, Gastonia Gazette, W. W. McDiarmid, Lumberton Robesonian, W. K. Jacobson, Washington Progress; Secretary, John B. Sherrill, Concord Times; Orator, W. F. Dowd, Charlotte News; Poet, Hal. W. Ayer, Caucasian; Historian, J. D. Kernode, Alamance Gleaner; Executive Committee: H. A. London, E. E. Hilliard, Thad R. Manning, J. A. Thomas, J. L. Ramsey.

Delegates to National Editorial Association: Joseph P. Caldwell, W. C. Erwin, John P. Carr, J. W. Bailey; Alternates: W. W. McDiarmid, Joseph Daniels, J. N. Robinson, D. J. Whitchard.

Nearly all of the editors left Greensboro for Morehead City on Friday morning, where they were the guests of the Atlantic Hotel for two days.

IS THERE WHAT WE WANT.

Richard Razor, who runs the kicking department of the People's Paper at Charlotte, lights his pipe and gets off the following remarks in the last issue of his paper: "The wicked fleeth when no man pursueth, but the wicked newspaper pursueth its delinquent subscribers."

"Anything will be taken on subscriptions to this paper that we can eat, drink, wear or throw at the cats that get on our back porch at night. "Owing to the small subscriptions coming in we have given notice at home that they could only use nine grains of coffee to the gallon of water after July 1st.

"You can't down us within the next thirty days, unless the farmers post their blackberry orchards, and they will have to post them with a wire fence horse high, pig tight and bull strong to keep us out."

P. S.—THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is too far from the briar patches to live on berries, so we will take the \$.

PROSTRATED WITH PROSPERITY.

The tidal wave of prosperity talked about in the goldbug sheets still lingers in the distance. We are about to conclude that they are mistaken—that the wave of prosperity is a wave of continued hard times.

Father Mahoney, a Catholic priest whose work is among the masses in Brooklyn, N. Y., is quoted as saying: "Never before in all my long experience as a parish priest has the city of Brooklyn been in such a woeful condition as it is now. Hundreds of families are starving. It is like an awful famine in a land of plenty, and unless relief comes soon the results will be appalling to contemplate. I have seen strong men, steady and industrious, actually begging for bread to feed their starving children. There is no work for them, nor are there any indications that the situation will improve. I have invariably held that actual want and poverty are caused by the people themselves; this time it is different. Good honest families are feeling it. The little they have been able to save has disappeared. In many homes this morning there is not as much as a loaf of bread. Woe to the men who have brought this about. Prospects of good crops were never fairer. Now, however, we are face to face with actual starvation. Men who have the money bags tied up will not loosen the strings. What has caused this condition? The tricks of the bloodhounds who call themselves men. In order to crush the unfortunate toiler they closed up the factories and mills; industries have been crushed that prices may be forced up. No one feels it but the workman. He is made to feel it, so that next year he will be glad to take whatever wages the bloodhound is willing to offer."

BRYAN ANNIHILATES CLARKE.

Judging from current newspaper reports of the Bryan-Clarke silver debate in Mobile on last Monday night, the brilliant orator from Nebraska, gave Mr. Clarke such a drubbing as he and those present who heard it, will not soon forget. Mr. Clarke, although at home, surrounded by his life-long friends and supporters, was no match for the silver giant from beyond the "big river." When we take into consideration the fact that Mr. Clarke had no tenable ground upon which to base a defense of his cause, and the additional and more important fact that in a mental point of view, he, as compared with Mr. Bryan, had absolutely

NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS, LIKE ALL INFIRM MINDS, WHEN IN THE PRESENCE OF

greater, being unable to sustain a case, he loses his head and falls, abusing his audience and his opponent. Mr. Clarke characterized those who cheered Mr. Bryan as "cowards, pharisees and republicans," saying he defeated them last year, and would do it again. Was conduct like this characteristic of the man who feels that he is championing a just cause? Was not this conduct such as to warrant the conclusion that he was utterly unable mentally to cope with Mr. Bryan?

To our minds, the weakness of Mr. Clarke, as exhibited to his Mobile audience upon this great occasion, was not his public career in his congressional district. The democratic leader in the South have carried politics with a high hand for the last twenty years, and in view of this fact, they cannot with any degree of patience, bear meet opposition and contradiction, the hands of more able and brave men.—Tuscaloosa Journal.

(Of course Congressman Clarke naturally didn't expect Bryan to whip him off the face of the earth, he did it in his cool, calm, Daniel Webster style. The immense audience cheer for minutes at a time and Clarke loses his goldbug temper. Finally the crowd escorted Bryan from the Opera House to his hotel and cheered all the way then stood around the hotel cheering for some time. Such a demonstration was never seen in the South on any similar occasion, and it is safe to say that Mobile and Alabama are in the silver column. Editor.)

IS THE REVENUE ACT THE LAW.

The close observer of the wily intriguing of the partisan ring leaders around Raleigh, have been more than a little amused at the attempts that have been made herabouts by certain of the baser sort to turn everything to party account. When Gentleman Elias Carr brought suit against the Honorable, The Secretary of State, to prevent the publication of the assignment act, and then when Gentleman Elias Carr, as Governor Elias Carr, authorized Secretary of State Coke to employ counsel, two Raleigh lawyers to defend the said Secretary of State against the attack of Gentleman Elias Carr, we thought surely the absurdity had reached the climax. We were loath to imagine a more silly partisan move. But the crowning folly of all silly, foolish, absurd acts has appeared. It is the attempt of the Secretary of State to throw the whole State into confusion and chaos, by mailing to the county officials throughout the State and certifying to the judges and solicitors as follows:

NORTH CAROLINA, SECRETARY OF STATE RALEIGH, 11 JULY, 1895. ERRATA—Attention is called to the fact that in the printed volume of the Public Laws of 1895, there is printed at the end of Chapter 116, being an Act to Raise Revenue, the words "Ratified the 12th day of March, A. D. 1895."

These words do not appear at the end of the original of said chapter and are filed in this office. O. C. COKE, Sec. State.

Now, when Zeke and Betsy went through the Capitol building on the 10th of May, looking for the moonshine distillery, they failed to investigate the northeast corner of the building. Evidently, taking the evidence of the Secretary of State as given May 23rd, 1895, in connection with the above circular letter or certificate, "Betsy and Zeke must have been 'hotter' the nearer they came to that corner.

Understand now, the law requires the Secretary of State to furnish the laws for publication to the State Printer and he has to certify to their accuracy. Or, in other words, that they are true and exact copies of the originals. He furnished the laws, as required by previous plainly stated laws, and on May 23, 1895, made affidavit as follows:

"STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, RALEIGH, N. C., May 23, 1895. "I, Octavius Coke, Secretary of State, hereby certify that the foregoing (manuscript) are true copies of the original acts and resolutions on file in this office." OCTAVIUS COKE, Secretary of State.

Read the two certificates. He swears according to law on May 23d, when he delivered the laws, that they were then true copies. If he was correct May 23d, was he correct July 11th? If correct July 11th, was he correct May 23d? It is plain that he is trying to prove that he erred May 23d, when he delivered the laws to the printer, and certified falsely. Now, the question is, can he set aside an act which has passed, been ratified and published, and also legally certified to as correct, by simply issuing a circular over his signature declaring that the ratification clause is not on the original bill now? He does not say it was not there May 23d, but "these words do not appear at the end of the original" etc. Which one of these certificates will the courts sustain? evidently the first, the legal one, else at any time erasures might be made in the office of the Secretary of State of not only the ratifying clause, the Speaker's signature or any other change made to suit the interest of such parties as might gain access to the originals, and all such laws thrown into utter confusion, or modified, because it could be shown that the manuscript did not appear as the printed copy in the laws.

Rest easy, dear reader. Capt. Coke cannot nullify any law in that way. The Revenue and Machinery Acts of 1885 are the law, and taxes will be assessed and collected accordingly.